IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for breeding~~of producing tomato ~~plants that produce tomatoes~~fruit ~~with reduced fruit water content comprising the steps of~~capable of natural dehydration comprising:

(a) crossing at least one *Lycopersicon esculentum* plant with a *Lycopersicon* spp. to produce hybrid ~~seed~~plants;

~~collecting the first generation of hybrid seeds;~~

~~growing plants from the first generation of hybrid seeds;~~

~~pollinating the plants of the most recent hybrid generation;~~

~~collecting the seeds produced by the most recent hybrid generation;~~

~~growing plants from the seeds of the most recent hybrid generation;~~

~~allowing plants to remain on the vine past the point of normal ripening; and~~

(b) growing said hybrid plants past a stage of fruit ripening; and

(c) screening said hybrid plants ~~for~~ and isolating plants having fruit ~~dehydration accompanied by extended preservation of the ripe fruit, wherein the ripe fruit has lost at least 30% of its red ripe fruit water content~~ exhibiting a wrinkling phenotype, thereby producing tomato fruit capable of natural dehydration.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the steps~~step (a) is effected by ~~of~~ pollinating, collecting the seeds, and growing said hybrid plants ~~are repeated at least once~~.

3. – 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said *Lycopersicon* spp ~~plant~~ is ~~a~~ *Lycopersicon hirsutum* ~~plant~~.

6. – 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~and additionally comprising the step of propagating the plants with~~ harvesting said tomato fruits ~~having the desired characteristics of~~following fruit ~~dehydration~~wrinkling ~~accompanied by extended preservation of the ripe fruit, wherein the ripe fruit has lost at least 30% of its red ripe fruit water content~~.

12. – 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) An isolated —whole tomato fruit of the *Lycopersicon esculentum* species characterized by skin wrinkling caused by natural fruit dehydration~~a capability of natural dehydration while on a tomato plant, natural dehydration being defined as loss of at least 30% of red ripe fruit water content when the fruit is allowed to remain on the plant after a normal ripe harvest stage, said natural dehydration being generally unaccompanied by microbial spoilage~~.

16. (Currently Amended) An isolated -whole tomato fruit of the *Lycopersicon esculentum* species characterized by skin wrinkling and an untreated skin ~~which permits dehydration of the fruit so as to obtain loss of at least 30% of red ripe fruit water content, said dehydration being generally unaccompanied by microbial spoilage~~.